

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01434 220852Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /125 W
-----129186 220902Z /23

P R 220745Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5196
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1434

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, SO
SUBJ: NERVOUSNESS IN THE LOWER RANKS: GSDR APPEAL FOR HELP

REFS: A) MOGADISCIO 1429 (NOTAL); B) MOGADISCIO 1428 (NOTAL)

1. ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND HEAD OF AMERICAN SECTION SUMMONED EMBOFF TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AUGUST 20 TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF CONGRESSMAN SIKES VISIT TO SOMALIA AND TO FORMALLY PURSUE REQUESTS MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDURAHMAN BARRE DURING HIS TALK WITH CONGRESSMAN SIKES (REF B).

2. ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL SAID SOMALIA WAS FACING CRITICAL SITUATION. SOVIET UNION WAS NOT ONLY THREATENING GSDR BUT WAS SEEKING TO QUOTE ISOLATE UNQUOTE SOMALIA AT UN AND OBTAIN SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION ON OGADEN IN SUPPORT OF ETHIOPIA TO CONDEMN SOMALI AGGRESSION. SOME 15,000 CUBAN TROOPS NOW PRESENT IN ETHIOPIA AND POSSIBILITY OF ETHIOPIAN INVASION IMMINENT. SOMALIA DESPERATELY NEEDED ARMS FOR ITS SELF-DEFENSE. US
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOGADI 01434 220852Z

MILITARY ASSISTANCE REQUIRED ON URGENT BASIS. GSDR ALSO SOLICITING US POLICY STATEMENT ON CONFLICT WHICH WOULD SUPPORT SOMALIA AND ENCOURAGE WESTERN ALLIES AND ARABS TO SUPPORT GSDR AGAINST USSR AND ITS ALLIES, PRINCIPALLY CUBA.

3. EMBOFF SAID THAT EMBASSY COULD FORWARD SOMALI REQUEST TO WASHINGTON BUT THAT IF HE DID SO GSDR CREDIBILITY AS WELL AS

HIS OWN MIGHT BE JEOPARDIZED. EMBASSY HAD REASONABLY ACCURATE PICTURE OF EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA AND SO DID WASHINGTON. IT MIGHT BE BEST THEREFORE IF WE COMPARED NOTES AND THEN DISCUSSED EXACTLY WHAT GSDR WAS SEEKING.

4. TO BEGIN WITH, WHAT SORT OF US POLICY STATEMENT DID GSDR HAVE IN MIND? BY PRESIDENT SIAD'S OWN ADMISSION, GSDR REGARDED ETHIOPIAN WARFARE AS ETHIOPIAN INTERNAL MATTER AND TOLD OTHER NATIONS TO KEEP OUT. PRESIDENT SIAD HAD BEEN ASKED DURING SIKES MEETING AUGUST 18 WHAT ROLE US COULD PLAY IN ENDING BLOODSHED AND HAD BEEN TOLD THIS WAS INTERNAL MATTER. DID GSDR WANT US TO COMMENT ON ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS? OR DID SOMALIA WANT STATEMENT ON OGADEN INSURGENCY, IN WHICH CASE US HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO DEFEND ETHIOPIAN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

5. ACTING DIRGEN SAID MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE WAS FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA, PARTICULARLY SOVIET ROLE AND DANGER THAT 15,000 CUBANS NOW IN ETHIOPIA POSED FOR SOMALIA.

6. EMBOFF SAID THAT FIGURE OF 15,000 CUBANS IN ETHIOPIA WAS SIMPLY NOT RPT NOT CREDIBLE. THERE WERE PERHAPS 15,000 TO 18,000 CUBANS IN ANGOLA AT ONE TIME BUT IF THERE WERE AS MANY CUBANS NOW IN ETHIOPIA, US AND OTHER NATIONS WOULD KNOW IT. THERE WERE NOT. EMBOFF SAID THAT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOGADI 01434 220852Z

THERE WERE PROBABLY FEWER THAN 100 CUBANS IN ETHIOPIA. PRESIDENT SIAD HIMSELF HAD SAID ON AUGUST 14 HE DOUBTED REPORTS OF LARGE-SCALE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA AND WE THOUGHT PRESIDENT WAS RIGHT. WE SIMPLY DID NOT BELIEVE CLAIMS OF MASSIVE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA.

7. SIMILARLY, CLAIMS THAT SOMALIA FACED IMMINENT ETHIOPIAN INVASION WERE ALSO VERY DUBIOUS. BY FONMIN'S OWN ADMISSION, WSLF OCCUPIED 97 PERCENT OF OGADEN. ETHIOPIAN FORCES WERE FACING CRITICAL SITUATION IN SIDAMO, BALE AND HARERGE, TO SAY NOTHING OF ERITREA OR TIGRE. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CREDIT REPORTS THAT ETHIOPIANS WERE NOW MUSTERING THEIR BELEAGUED GARRISONS FOR INVASION WHICH WOULD CUT SOMALIA IN TWO; OR THAT SOMALI ARMY (SNA) WOULD CREDIT SUCH RUMORS. TO DATE, WSLF WAS HAVING ITS OWN WAY IN OGADEN AND ADJACENT AREAS.

8. WHEN ACTING DIRGEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF IMMEDIATE US MILITARY HELP FOR SOMALIA, EMBOFF SAID THAT FONMIN ABDURAHMAN'S REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE WITHIN 48 HOURS WAS TOTALLY UNREALISTIC. GSDR COULD NOT RPT NOT EXPECT US TO PROVIDE GSDR WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE AT PRESENT NOR SO LONG

AS ETHIOPIAN WARFARE CONTINUES. ANY PROVISION OF US MILITARY SUPPLIES TO SOMALIA WOULD ASSOCIATE US WITH SOMALI SUPPORT FOR WSLF AND ITS INSURGENCY IN ETHIOPIA. AMBASSADOR ADDOU HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON IN WHICH THIS WAS POINTED OUT. US HAD DRAWN SOME CRITICAL COMMENT IN AFRICA FOR ITS ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEFENSIVE WEAPONS SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA AT TIME WHEN OAU MEDIATION COMMISSION CONSIDERING SOMALI/ETHIOPIAN DISPUTE. WHILE US HAD COMMITTED ITSELF IN PRINCIPLE TO HELP SOMALIA MEET ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS, US PLEDGE HAD BEEN MADE SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE OGADEN INSURGENCY HAD ESCALATED FROM SERIES OF MINOR SKIRMISHES TO FULL SCALE WAR. IT WAS UNREALISTIC FOR GSDR TO EXPECT US WEAPONS SO LONG AS ETHIOPIAN WARS BEING FOUGHT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOGADI 01434 220852Z

9. ACTING DIRGEN ASKED HOW US WOULD REACT TO MASSIVE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA, SAY 10,000 TO 15,000 MEN. EMBOFF SAID ANY FOREIGN TROOP PRESENCE OF THAT SIZE WAS BOUND TO HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR ALL NATIONS CONCERNED WITH REGION. HE TOLD ACTING DIRGEN THAT LESS THAN TWO YEARS AGO HE HAD MADE DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENT SIAD ASKING HIS SUPPORT IN LEETING ANGOLANS DECIDE THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE AMONG THREE COMPETING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS -- MPLA, UNITA AND GRAE. SIAD HAD SUPPORTED CUBAN PRESENCE AND NETO HAD WON OUT BY FORCE OF ARMS. THAT WAS WATER OVER THE DAM BUT THERE WAS SOME IRONY IN PRESENT GSDR FEAR OF CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA. BUT IF SIAD DID NOT BELIEVE REPORTS, THERE WAS NO REASON FOR OTHER OBSERVERS TO CREDIT THEM.

10. WHEN ACTING DIRGEN ASKED ABOUT ISRAELI PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA, EMBOFF SAID THAT RECENT PARIS HERALD-TRIBUNE HAD DISCUSSED ISRAELI PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA. ASKED IF ISRAELIS WERE FLYING ETHIOPIAN F-5'S, EMBOFF SAID THAT THOSE CLAIMS WERE AS BOGUS AS ETHIOPIAN CHARGES THAT IRAQI OR SYRIAN PILOTS WERE FLYING SOMALI MIG-17'S AND MIG-21'S.

11. FONMIN OFFICIALS THEN REGROUPED AND ADMITTED THAT THEY WERE OFTEN CONFUSED OR UNINFORMED AS TO DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS BORDER. THEY WONDERED IF US RESOURCES, WHICH EXCEEDED THEIR OWN, MIGHT SOMETIMES BE AVAILABLE TO HELP SORT MATTERS OUT. EMBOFF SAID EMBASSY WAS READY TO CANDIDLY DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AT ANY TIME AND IN THAT WAY BETTER DEFINE COMMON PROBLEMS IN A VERY UNCERTAIN PERIOD.

12. COMMENT: TWO OFFICIALS WERE PROBABLY ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS OF FONMIN ABDURAHMAN BARRE. ONE OF THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 MOGADI 01434 220852Z

DIFFICULTIES OF GSDR OFFICIALS AT PRESENT IS THAT BECAUSE
OF ABUNDANCE OF RUMOR AND ABSENCE OF CLARIFICATION FROM
SIAD, THEY ARE SOMETIMES BOUND TO BELIEVE THEIR OWN OFFICIAL
POLICY LINE. AT PRESENT TIME, THAT GSDR POLICY LINE IS ONE
OF DELIBERATE DISTORTION.
LOUGHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOGADI01434
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-0395
Format: TEL
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770837/aaaabfkb.tel
Line Count: 181
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 686bfa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOGADISCIO 1429, 77 MOGADISCIO 1428
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1528383
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NERVOUSNESS IN THE LOWER RANKS: GSDR APPEAL FOR HELP
TAGS: PFOR, US, SO, UR, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/686bfa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009